

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANTO 05804 231551Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----110115 231851Z /41

R 231501Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2078

S E C R E T SANTO DOMINGO 5804

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MPOL, CU, DR  
SUBJECT: CUBAN VIOLATIONS OF DOMINICAN WATERS AND AIR SPACE

REF (A) USDAO SANTO DOMINGO 061600Z SEP, (B) USDAO SANTO DOMINGO  
121700Z SEP

1. REF A FROM DATT TO DIA REPORTED INCIDENT INVOLVING CUBAN FISHING RESUPPLY VESSEL ALLEGEDLY IN DOMINICAN TERRITORIAL WATERS. REF B FROM DATT TO DIA REPORTED FLYOVER OF DOMINICAN TERRITORY BY SEVERAL UNIDENTIFIED JET AIRCRAFT MAKING LOW LEVEL PASSES OVER PUERTO PLATA. WITH ASSISTANCE US TECHNICIAN, TANK FROM AIRCRAFT, WHICH WAS JETTISONED OVER PUERTO PLATA, HAS BEEN UNMISTAKABLY IDENTIFIED AS BEING OF SOVIET MANUFACTURE AND DEFINITELY ASSOCIATED WITH MIG-21 FISHBED. THEREFORE THE PRESUMPTION THAT JET AIRCRAFT WERE CUBAN WOULD APPEAR SUBSTANTIATED.

2. TO DATE, THERE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY NOTHING IN THE DOMINICAN PRESS REGARDING THIS INCIDENT. HOWEVER, THE MATTER IS BEGINNING TO FLOAT ON THE COCKTAIL CIRCUIT; FOR EXAMPLE, BOTH CHILEAN AND URUGUAYAN AMBASSADORS RAISED SUBJECT WITH AMBASSADOR LAST NIGHT AT RECEPTION WITH HEATED CONCERN ABOUT "NOT LETTING CUBANS GET AWAY WITH IT." THEY, OF COURSE, SEE THE INCIDENT AS VINDICATION THEIR GOVERNMENT' HARD LINE POSTURES. (URUGUAYAN IS IMMATURE HOTHEAD. AMBASSADOR AGREED TO MEET THEM THIS MORNING WHEN HE

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WILL ATTEMPT TO CALM THEM.)

3. COMMENT. CUBAN ACTION PLACES GODR IN AWKWARD POSITION. SEVERAL DOMINICAN MILITARY ARE UNDOUBTEDLY INCENSED AND ARE PROBABLY PRESSURING PALACE "TO DO SOMETHING." BALAGUER HAS BEEN VERY CAUTIOUS IN HIS RELATIONS WITH THE CUBANS, UNDERSTANDING FULLY THE MILITARY POWER RELATIONSHIP. HE MAY DECIDE TO IGNORE THE

INCIDENT IF HE CAN OR TAKE SOME MINIMUM ACTION, SUCH AS TOAK TO US, TO RELIEVE THE PRESSURE ON HIM FROM HIS "ACTIVISTS." THE SUDDEN DECISIOON TO KEEP FORSEC ADMIRAL JIMENEZ HERE RATHER THAN SEND HIM TO NEW YORK FOR THE UNGA AS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED IS PROBABLY RELATED TO THIS PROBLEM.

4. IN AMBASSADOR'S EXPERIENCE, ABILITY TO ASSERT WITH COMPLETE CONFIDENCE THAT A VESSEL IS JUST WITHIN (5 TO 6 NAUTICAL MILES OFFSHORE AS REPORTED REF A - DOMINICANS CLAIM SIX AS TERRITORIAL) OR JUST WITHOUT TERRITORIAL WATERS IS AT BEST IMPERFECT. THE US COAST GUARD HAS T D OCCASIONAL DIFFICULTY IN PAST IN PINPOINTING LOCATIONS IN INCIDENTS INVOLVING CUBAN VESSELS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Event:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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